(c) the present status of the proposal; and

(d) by when a final decision on the proposal is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) A proposal was received in October, 1997 which has since been examined by all concerned agencies in the Government. The proposal has been assessed as not meeting the technical and policy parameters laid down for supporting such projects.

Draft resolution for adoption of Anti-Tobacco Legislation

1468. SARDAR GURCHARAN SINGH TOHRA: SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Punjab Government has sent a draft resolution to the Centre for adoption of comprehensive anti-tabacco legislation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Govt, of Punjab has forwarded a copy of resolution passed by the Vidhan Sabha on the 21st March, 1996 (Morning Sitting) for adoption of comprehensive Anti-Tobacco legislation in 1996.

A proposal is under consideration to bring forward a comprehensive legislation to discourage the use of tobacco and tobacco products.

Spurious Drugs Racket

1469. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news appearing in the Indian Express dated the 1st November, 1998 under the caption "Spurious drugs racket busted".

(b) if so, whetehr a large number of spurious drugs, packed under common brand names, are being manufactured and sold in the wholesale Bhagirath Place and other markets in Delhi without issuing receipts therefor; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to curb this menace which is posing a serious threat to the health of the gullible and innocent people.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) Test reports of 43 drugs, sampled by Delhi State Drug Inspectiors from Bhagirath Place during April to November 98 are reported to be of standard quality. However, it is reported that 3 imitation products viz. Fortwin injection of M/S Ranbaxy, Becosules Capsule of M/S Pfizer and Odoxil tablet M/S Lupin were sampled by the drug inspectors, and the police seized the drugs and arrested two persons.

(c) Measures taken to combat the menace of sub-standard & spurious drugs include stipulating GMPs as statutory requirement under the Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940, making 1996 Pharmacopoeal standards more stringent, advising States to establish intelligence-cum-legal Cells to unearth spurious drugs with the assistance of police and proposal to augment enforcement staff and drug testing facilities of the States and Centre under a Capacity Building Project with World Bank Support.